

'A FAMILY AFFAIR' | ARTISTS ANNA VIRNICH, DAVID PRYTZ AND WINFRIED VIRNICH EXHIBIT TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME AT ARTEFACT BERLIN

Opening on **Tuesday, April 23** in advance of **Gallery Weekend Berlin**, the exhibition will bring together the artistic Virnich-Prytz family, and debut new site-specific paintings and sculptures, unraveling an interplay of inherent poetics in their respective practices.

On View: April 24 – July 5, 2024

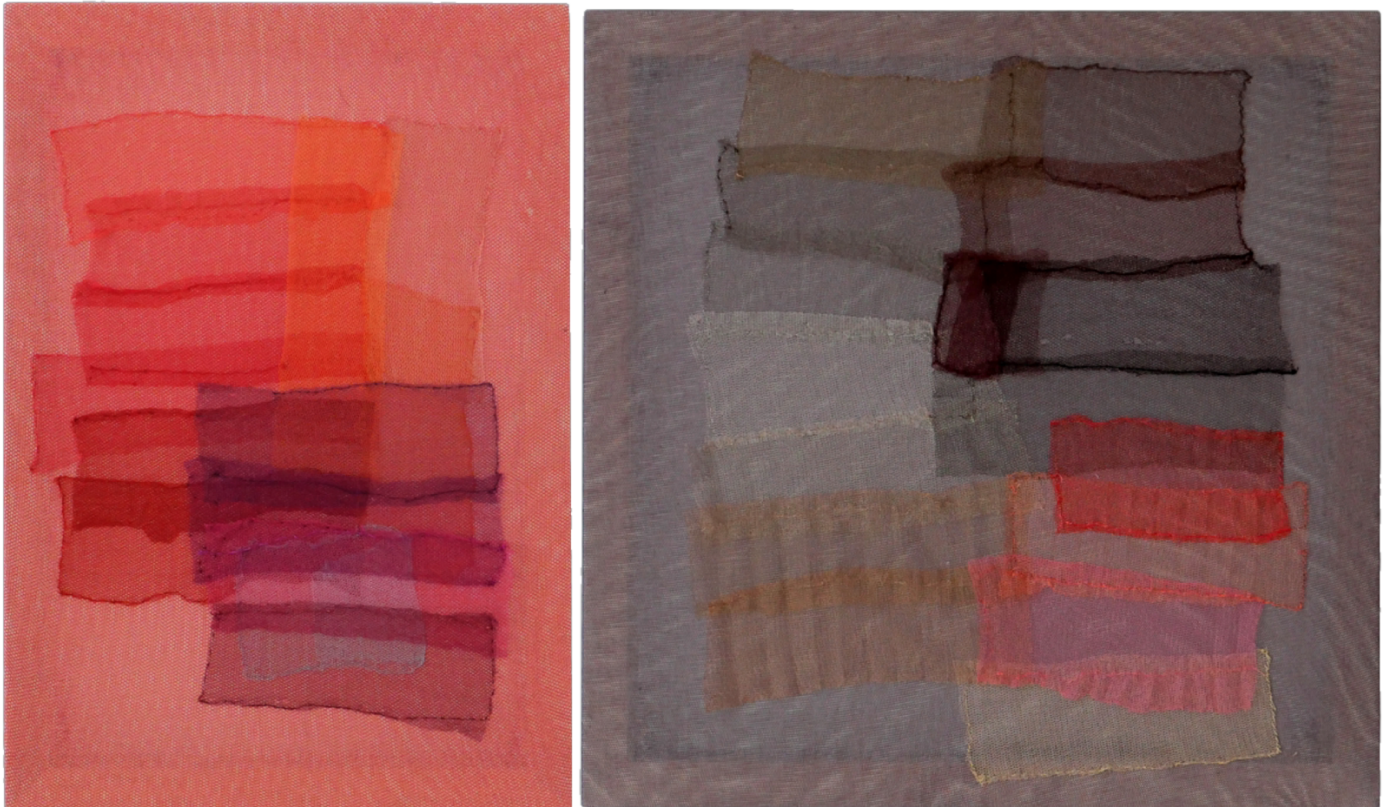


April 2024 (Berlin, Germany) – **Artefact Gallery** is pleased to announce the inaugural exhibition by the **Virnich-Prytz family**, unveiling a series of all-new works, bringing together contemporary artists Anna Virnich, her partner, sculptor David Prytz, and her father Winfried Virnich, the German painter. On view from **April 24 – July 5, 2024**, **'A Family Affair'** will debut new pieces teasing out abstract meditations by each artist, exploring novel intimate scales and materials. Anna Virnich's conceptualization of works is rooted in a painterly approach, while the execution and final pieces move seamlessly between object and painting, further conversing with Prytz's sculptures and Winfried Virnich's paintings. Connecting the artists' work beyond their personal ties, the exhibition is a take on the possibility and poetics of lightness in every form and shape.

Conceptualized by Anna Rosa Thomae, the exhibition will amass, for the first time, artworks of diverse corporeality exploring common threads of continual transformation and the three-dimensional, as a result of elusive interplays between materiality and composition.

After unveiling a collection of intimate pieces (35 cm x 35 cm / 13,7 inches x 13,7 inches) at Proyectos Monclova at Art Basel in 2015, Anna Virnich revisits this format for **'A Family Affair'** imbuing it with a sense of humility and contemplation. Following four solo shows in the last 12 months, these new works directly reflect on the current state of the world and its overbearing truths through its clear formal language of abstraction and its almost monochromatic colorways.

The cornerstone of Virnich's practice is fabric, the emotive evocation of this tactile material into a painterly form. Recognizing the extreme personal connections humans have with textiles, Virnich charges her pieces sensually and haptically, instantly connecting the viewer to the paintings, which ultimately become familiar artifacts creating a distinctive world of genuineness. Virnich processes materials such as cloth, wax, and plants with specially developed scent compositions, and probes answers to her inner world of truth. In their abstract ephemerality, these creations forge a presence that transcends boundaries, conveying a poetic essence of the material itself and its ability to create new spaces and complexity in the painterly field. Lending a sense of vitality, Virnich uses fabrics as carriers of subjective expression through fragility and extensibility. The paintings seem to float, becoming a composite entity implying variations of depth, and at the same time echoing and celebrating qualities of lightness.



Responding to the space, David Prytz's new pieces for the exhibition will show materiality as possibilities and thought, unveiling raw matter, shapes, and surfaces combined, that singularly carry various feelings, expressions and meanings, depending on the viewer.

With a profound interest in philosophy and music, David Prytz infuses the elements of these disciplines in creating sculptures interconnected in otherworldly structures, referring to the universe and space. In exploring this approach, he delves into the intricacies of time and the cosmos, challenging the relative nature of the idea of the center. By considering each element as an epicenter unto itself, Prytz's sculptures explore eternity, boundless space, and the unique principles and emotions that govern individual experiences. His sculptures show that the form is self-contained and cohesive, yet it only manifests within its external context, defined in relation to other elements defining space or time. Prytz creates and outlines distinctive environments where clusters interact with each other, reflecting a state of continual change, working within the dualities, both the consistency and shapeless character, fragility, and roughness of materials. The structures appear weightless and brittle, a bold contrast to their materiality which conveys rawness and incompleteness, giving the pieces a poetic distinction.



Presenting all new works at Artefact, Winfried Virnich will further his exploration of abstraction in the painterly field, inquisitive with colors and their inherent abilities to produce individual and meticulous effects on the viewer. The world of the abstract, without reference to images or symbolic functions, becomes the open field for Virnich who uses texture and minimal, pure qualities of color to create plausible paintings, beyond any didactics. The placements of shades and shapes, all dependent on each other, conceal individual metaphors bringing forth a clarity of the painterly truth. The specific rhythm of the brushwork in coincidence with pigment creates a certain poetic quality in Virnich's paintings, suggesting context without clearly defining it. This musical quality which is a product of fine balance between the primary painterly elements, brings forth a certain chromatic quality, an interplay of lightness and depth at once.

'I am thrilled to present 'A Familiar Affair' as the artists will show together for the first time presenting all new works specifically for us. The exhibition unveils intricate connections in their artistic production – a sense of lightness in all pieces albeit different mediums make for an unexpected discourse between the works,' explains Anna Rosa Thomae.

MEDIA CONTACT:**A R T Communication + Brand Consultancy (Berlin)**Hana Kohout | Account Manager | hana@annarosathomae.com**NOTES TO EDITORS:***A Family Affair* will be on view at Artefact from April 24 – July 5, 2024.

Artefact | Geisbergstraße 12, 10777 Berlin, Germany

Monday – Friday

10 – 6 PM and by appointment

About Anna Virnich

Born in 1984, Anna Virnich is a contemporary artist whose formal art education started under the mentorship of Walter Dahn at Kunsthochschule Braunschweig. Her works are housed in prestigious private collections across Mexico, the USA, Paris, Italy, and Germany, including acquisitions by the esteemed LBBW Collection. She has held major solo shows such as 'Mutti Raucht wieder' in 2023 at Gallery Drei, in 2019 an Institutional Solo Show during Art Week Berlin at Schering Stiftung and two major solo shows in Mexico City hosted by Proyectos Monclova and Arratia Beer. Her work has been recognized with accolades such as a work grant from the Kunstfond Foundation in 2019 and an initial scholarship from the Academy of Arts Berlin in 2020.

Notably, she has been nominated for prestigious awards including the Karl Schmidt Rotluff and the Hans Purrmann Prize. For her upcoming solo exhibition at Kunstverein Heppenheim and participation in a group show at A+B Galeria in Brescia, Italy, Virnich plans to unveil an extension of the *Interlude* series, showcasing her formal beginnings and artistic evolution.

About David Prytz

Born in 1979 in Aarhus, Denmark, David Prytz is a contemporary artist whose work navigates the intersections of space, perception, and technology. With a Master's degree in European Art Practice from Kingston University and a Fine Art degree from the same institution, Prytz's educational background informs his multidisciplinary practice. His work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions worldwide, such as 'Ever seen Never see' at Akkurat Studios, Berlin, and 'Anatomy of restlessness' at Galleria Mario Iannelli, Rome, and solo exhibitions, including 'Where the Bridge ends the Satellite begins' at SP2 Berlin in 2020, and 'exocenter' at Galleria Mario Iannelli in Rome, Italy. Notably, his pieces are housed in collections including the Kranich Museum in Hessenburg, Germany.

About Winfried Virnich

Born in 1955 in Eschweiler, Germany, artist Winfried Virnich completed his Fine Arts degree at HdK (UdK) Berlin, in 1986, after completing his music studies in Aachen from 1976 to 1980. Since 1983, his work has been featured in numerous solo exhibitions and has also earned prestigious awards such as the Karl Schmidt-Rottluff Scholarship and a Work Scholarship of the Kunstfond Bonn, in 1987. From 1997 to 2021, he was a professor of Painting at Klasse Virnich, Kunsthochschule Mainz, during which he also served as the Director from 2003 to 2014. Currently residing and working in Köln, Virnich has held numerous exhibitions across Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, and beyond. His works have been housed in esteemed venues like Kunsthalle zu Kiel, Kunsthalle Recklinghausen, Museum Morsbroich Leverkusen, and Museum Ludwig, Koblenz.

About Artefact Gallery

Artefact is a Berlin-based gallery and project space presenting contemporary art and collectible design. We are dedicated to fostering a dynamic and inclusive community by supporting both emerging and established artists and designers in articulating their unique perspectives. Our collaborators are entrusted with unrestricted creativity, with the freedom to explore, experiment, and express themselves without limitations.

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Previous exhibitions include:

'Blushing out of Blue' by Berlin-based Brazilian-born artist Caterina Renaux Hering

'Transparency, Form and Color' featuring contemporary Berlin-based artist Nadine Schemmann and mid-century glassware attributed to glass artist Albin Schaedel

Image Captions:

1. + 2. Left. Installation View of 'A Family Affair.' Right. David Prytz, *Untitled (they)* 2024. Dimensions variable. Courtesy of Artefact Gallery.

3. + 4. Left. Anna Virnich, *Interlude III*, 2024, 37 x 25,5cm. *Seiden Tüll auf Seiden Tüll, Siebnessel und Faden auf Holz*. Right. Anna Virnich, *Interlude IV*, 2024, 35 x 35 cm. *Seiden Tüll auf Seiden Tüll und Faden auf Holz*. Courtesy of Artefact Gallery.

3 +4. Left. Winfried Virnich. *Untitled* 2020; pigment harztempera, leinwand; 110 x 80 cm. Right. Winfried Virnich. *Untitled*, 2024, pigment harztempera, leinwand. 90 x 60 cm (no. 1). Courtesy of Artefact Gallery.